



Amendment to the Title:

Please amend the title as follow:

**METHOD, EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEM FOR SIGNALING IN A NETWORK
INCLUDING ETHERNET BY CREATING A COMBINED PACKET FLOW**

Amendment to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as set forth below, wherein the numbered paragraphs refer to the numbering in the published specification of this application.

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

There is proposed a method of providing a signaling channel for performing one or more signaling functions at the level of Ethernet. The telecommunication of interest is organized by information packets forming an information flow, and the method comprises utilizing a combined flow composed from the information flow and one or more service flows formed from service packets being compatible with the information packets. The service packets belonging to a particular service flow carry an indication of a corresponding one of the signaling functions to be performed, while the one or more service flows form the signaling channel at the level of Ethernet.

Please amend paragraph 9 as follows:

[0009] There is a long felt need to measure and analyze packets of Ethernet, Internet, and some other packet networks when they are transmitted within a lower level frame, for example when enveloped in an SDH/SONET frame. It has been realized by the Inventors, that for various purposes such measurement and analysis is essential. [[Say]] For example, for proper billing of an Ethernet subscriber transferring packets via an SDH transport network, a management system has to know how many Ethernet packets passed during a particular period of time, how many frames of those passed satisfy requirements of quality, etc. It should be emphasized that any maintenance monitoring performed on the SDH level does not help to answer these questions. It means, that at the receiving end, where the Ethernet information is recovered from the SDH frames, no statistic information will be available on functioning of the Ethernet domain.

Please amend paragraph 10 as follows:

[0010] In view of the above, the object of the invention can be achieved by a method of providing a signaling channel for performing one or more signaling functions at the level of Ethernet (being a packet network where communication is performed by means of information packets forming an information flow). The [[, the]] method comprises utilizing a combined flow composed from said information flow and one or more service flows formed from service packets that are ~~being~~ compatible with said information packets, wherein the service packets belonging to a particular service flow carry an indication of a corresponding one of said

signaling functions to be performed, while said one or more service flows form the signaling channel at the level of Ethernet.

Please amend paragraph 12 as follows:

[0012] arranging at the first operating point a source adaptation element capable of receiving the information flow from a first Ethernet device,

Please amend paragraph 13 as follows:

[0013] arranging at the second operating point a sink adaptation element capable of transmitting the information flow to a second Ethernet device,

Please amend paragraph 14 as follows:

[0014] producing at the source adaptation element the service packets forming said one or more service flows,

Please amend paragraph 15 as follows:

[0015] at the source adaaptation element, merging said one or more service flows with the information flow, thereby obtaining the combined flow with the signaling channel,

Please amend paragraph 16 as follows:

[0016] transmitting data comprised in the combined flow via the network domain from the source adaptation element to the sink adaptation element,

Please amend paragraph 17 as follows:

[0017] at the sink adaptation element, extracting the service packets of said one or more service flows from said combined flow and processing said service packets,

Please amend paragraph 19 as follows:

[0019] The step of producing the service packets forming said one or more service flows is performed, at the source adaptation element, based on monitoring the information flow and/or monitoring external instructions.

Please amend paragraph 21 as follows:

[0021] It should be noted that a span of the network domain between the two operating points may include one or more monitoring points. ~~As we remember, the~~ The basic two operating points comprise a source adaptation element and a sink adapatation element, respectively. The monitoring point differs from a sink adaptation element by the fact that it enables analyzing the service flow but does not terminate it. On the other hand, the monitoring operation may be provided also on a sink adaptation element, using its service flow(s). Therefore, the signaling channel will be maintained between any two points, whether they are

~~being either~~ an operating point or a monitoring point. The monitoring points may coincide with said (basic) operating points, though it is not obligatory.

Please amend paragraph 22 as follows:

[0022] Likewise, the span between said two (basic) operating points (a source and a sink) may include an additional operating point comprising an additional source adaptation element and/or another sink adaptation element. Therefore, two or more signaling channels may be formed in the span between a particular couple of operating points. ~~Furthermore Naturally~~, the additional operating points may serve as monitoring points.

Please amend paragraph 45 as follows:

[0045] A source adaptation element for creating a signaling channel for performing one or more signaling functions at the level of Ethernet, capable of:

Please amend paragraph 50 as follows:

[0050] Further, the source adaptation element may comprise a mapping unit for transmitting the outgoing combined flow via a transport network by the transport network frames, thereby ensuring transmission of the contents of a signaling channel via the transport network.

Please amend paragraph 51 as follows:

[0051] Similarly, there is provided a sink adaptation element capable of terminating a signaling channel for performing one or more signaling functions at the level of Ethernet, the sink adaptation element is capable of:

Please amend paragraph 55 as follows:

[0055] Further, an assembly can be designed for creating a first signaling channel at the level of the Ethernet, and for analyzing a second (e.g., an oppositely directed) signaling channel at the level of the Ethernet [[: to]] To this end, the assembly will comprise the source adaptation element and the sink adaptation element as described above. Preferably, the assembly is located on a card intended for installing in a network node. If the source adaptation element and the sink adaptation element of the assembly are respectively provided with a mapper and a de-mapper, the assembly can be considered an adaptation block for connecting between an Ethernet packet network and a transport network.

Please amend paragraph 57

[0057] The system providing a signaling channel for performing one or more signaling functions at the level of the Ethernet, which can be arranged between the above-described source adaptation element and sink adaptation element serving one and the same signaling channel.